

Attorney Docket #: E6026-490
App. Serial No.: 10/825,517
Art Unit: 3641
Amendment: August 1, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

The claims in this listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A centerfire autoloading pistol with pinless loaded chamber indicator comprising:

a housing having an external surface and defining a chamber to receive a cartridge having a rim, the housing further including a rear sight having an edge defining a fulcrum and a bottom horizontal surface; and

a rigid movable indicating element having a first end, a second end, and a center equally-spaced therebetween, the indicating element pivotally engaged with the edge between the center and one of the ends to define a pinless pivot, the indicating element including a horizontal surface mating with the bottom surface of the rear sight for retaining the indicating element within the housing;

wherein the indicating element is positioned in the housing to contact the rim of the cartridge and is movable to a position in which the indicating element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing to provide a user of the pistol with a visual and tactile indication that the cartridge is loaded in the chamber.

2. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 1, wherein the indicating element is movable from a first position in which the element does not protrude outwards from the external surface of the housing to a second position in which the element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing.

3. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 2, wherein the indicating element is positioned generally behind the chamber and the first end is a front end and the second end is a rear end, the front end located closer to the chamber than the rear end, wherein the indicating element is pivotally engaged with the fulcrum at the rear end.

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4. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 3, wherein the entire indicating element between the fulcrum and front end is movable from the first position to the second position.
5. (canceled).
6. (previously presented) A centerfire autoloading pistol with loaded chamber indicator comprising:
 - a housing having an external surface and defining a chamber to receive a cartridge, the housing defining a fulcrum; and
 - a movable element having a first front end, a second rear end, and a center equally-spaced therebetween, the front end located closer to the chamber than the rear end, the indicating element pivotally engaged with the fulcrum at the rear end, the element being movable from a first position in which the element does not protrude outwards from the external surface of the housing to a second position in which the element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing, the element being positioned generally behind the chamber;
 - wherein the indicating element is positioned in the housing to contact the cartridge and is movable to a position in which the element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing to provide a user of the pistol with a visual and tactile indication that the cartridge is loaded in the chamber;
 - wherein the element is retained within the housing by a horizontal surface located adjacent to the second end which mates with a corresponding horizontal surface in the housing, the horizontal surface in the housing being the bottom surface of a rear sight attached to the housing.
7. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 6, wherein the indicating element is pivotally engaged with the fulcrum with a pinless connection.
8. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 1, wherein indicia are provided on a side surface of the indicating element to communicate to the user that a cartridge is loaded in the chamber, the indicia comprising at least one alphanumeric character that is at least 0.085 inches

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tall and visible to the user when the indicating element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing.

9. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 3, wherein the front end of the indicating element contacts the cartridge rim and has a width smaller than the width of the rear end to minimize intrusion into the housing near the chamber.

10. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 1, wherein the indicating element is mounted in a top of the housing.

11. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 10, wherein the indicating element is an elongated lever and the top of the housing comprises an elongated slot configured to pivotally receive the indicating element.

12. (original) The pistol of claim 11, wherein the lever further comprises a support base projecting downwards from a bottom surface of the lever which rests on the housing.

13. (original) The pistol of claim 12, wherein the elongated slot contains a landing configured to receive the support base of the lever.

14. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 1, wherein the indicating element comprises a forward sloping surface on the first end to make smooth initial contact with the cartridge.

15. (currently amended) A centerfire autoloading pistol with pinless loaded chamber indicator comprising:

a reciprocating slide having an external surface and a rear sight having an edge defining a fulcrum;

a chamber to receive a cartridge having a rim, the chamber disposed in the slide; and

a one-piece ~~an~~ elongated ~~rigid~~ indicating element having a front end, a second rear end, and a mid-portion between the ends, the indicating element pivotally engaged proximate to the rear end with the edge of the slide to define a pinless pivot and positioned in the slide to contact

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the cartridge;

wherein the indicating element is pivotally displaceable ~~without bending~~ by contact with the rim of the cartridge to a loaded-chamber-indication position in which the indicating element protrudes outwards beyond the external surface of the slide;

wherein the rear end of the indicating element is restrained in the slide without a pinned connection by two opposing horizontal surfaces arranged to contact each other, one of the horizontal surfaces being disposed on the indicating element and the other horizontal surface being disposed on a bottom surface of the rear sight in the slide.

16. (original) The pistol of claim 15, wherein the indicating element is mounted in the top of the slide and is displaceable in an upward direction.

17. (original) The pistol of claim 16, wherein the mid-portion and front end are displaceable to the loaded-chamber-indication position.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 18, wherein the cartridge has a rim which holds the indicating element in the loaded-chamber-indication position.

20. (currently amended) A centerfire autoloading pistol with pinless loaded chamber indicator comprising:

a housing having an external surface and an edge defining a fulcrum;

a chamber to receive a cartridge having a rim and disposed in the housing; and

a bar-shaped rigid lever having a first end, a second end, and a mid-portion between the two ends, the lever pivotally engaged with the edge of the housing to define a pinless pivot proximate to the first end, the lever positioned in the housing to contact the rim of the cartridge, wherein the second end and mid-portion of the lever are both unconstrained and displaceable in relation to the housing by contact of the lever with the rim of the cartridge to a loaded-chamber-indication position such that at least part of the lever protrudes outwards beyond the external

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surface of the housing to provide a user of the pistol with a visual and tactile indication that the cartridge is loaded in the chamber;

wherein the element is retained within the housing by a horizontal surface located adjacent to the second end which mates with a corresponding horizontal surface in the housing, the horizontal surface in the housing being a bottom surface of a rear sight attached to the housing.

21. (original) The pistol of claim 20, wherein the second end and mid-portion of the lever are retractable to an unloaded-chamber-indication position in which the lever does not substantially protrude outwards from the housing.

22. (original) The pistol of claim 20, wherein the lever is at least 1.0 inches in length.

23. (original) The pistol of claim 20, wherein indicia are provided on a side surface of the lever to communicate to the user that a cartridge is loaded in the chamber, the indicia comprising at least one alphanumeric character that is at least 0.085 inches tall and visible to the user when the element protrudes outwards from the external surface of the housing.

24. (canceled).

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended) The pistol of claim 20, further comprising a spring that acts against the lever and biases the lever towards the unloaded-chamber-indication position.

27. (canceled).

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled).

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30. (canceled).

31. (currently amended) A centerfire autoloading pistol with pinless loaded chamber indicator comprising:

a slide having an external surface and defining a chamber to receive a cartridge having rim, ~~the slide including defining a fulcrum;~~

a trapping member removably mounted on top of the slide, the trapping member including a first horizontal bottom surface and an adjoining first sloping vertical surface disposed at a first angle to a vertical plane and intersecting the first horizontal surface to form an edge defining a fulcrum; and

~~an rigid~~ indicating lever having a second horizontal surface and an adjoining second sloping vertical surface disposed at a second angle to the vertical plane and intersecting the second horizontal surface to define a pivot point, at least a portion of the first horizontal surface of the trapping member disposed on top of the second horizontal surface of the indicating lever to removably secure the indicating lever to the slide, the edge of the trapping member pivotally engaged with the pivot point of the indicating lever without a pinned connection;

wherein the indicating lever contacts the rim of the cartridge when inserted in the chamber and pivots about the pivot point so that at least a portion of the indicating lever protrudes outwards from the external surface of the slide to provide a user of the pistol with a visual and tactile indication that a cartridge is loaded in the chamber.

32. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 31, wherein the trapping member is a rear sight.

33. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 31, further comprising a gap between the first and second sloping vertical surfaces to allow pivotal movement of the indicating lever with respect to the trapping member.

34. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 31, further comprising a biasing member acting on the indicating lever to urge a front portion of the indicating lever towards the chamber.

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35. (previously presented) The pistol of claim 31, wherein the pivot point is located proximate to a rear end of the indicating lever.